

Executive Proclamation

State of South Dakota

Office of the Governor

Whereas, Vernon Ashley was born on January 15, 1916, on a small ranch on the Crow Creek Indian Reservation; and,

Whereas, Vernon is a loving family man, renowned Indian leader, proud patriot, compassionate volunteer and great American. He served his country honorably and with distinction in the United States Army Air Corps during World War II; and,

Whereas, Vernon attended Dakota Wesleyan College and graduated at the age of 34, which motivated all his children to obtain a college degree; and,

Whereas, Vernon married Rose Marie on April 7, 1951, and to this union 7 children were born: John, Jana, Mary, Wallace, Robert, James and Joseph who in turn blessed them with 13 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren; and,

Whereas, Vernon was elected and served as Tribal Chairman of the Crow Creek Indian Reservation during the historic time of the mighty Missouri River being harnessed by four earthen dams. He served as Coordinator of Indian Affairs for the state of South Dakota for Governors Boe, Kneip and Farrar. He also served as Executive Director of VISTA for both South Dakota and North Dakota, supervising all volunteer activity at the time of the Rapid City flood disaster; and,

Whereas, Vernon has been a conservative voice in the organization and activities of the Lakes of the Brave, Inc., an organization to protect the rights of Native American people and is a founding member of the national organization, The American Indian Veterans, Inc., with members from nearly every state in the nation and Canada; and,

Whereas, Vernon will observe his 90th Birthday with all the good wishes, fanfare, and celebration such a milestone warrants, as his friends and relatives gather to honor him with an open house on January 14, 2006, to celebrate his life and the camaraderie of the day; and it is fitting and proper for the Governor to make note of this milestone in the life of a man who has lived an exemplary life for all to emulate:

Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim January 14, 2006, as

VERNON ASHLEY DAY

in South Dakota, and I join all his many friends in wishing him a very happy birthday, good health, and great happiness.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Twenty-second Day of December in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Five.



M. Michael Rounds
M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:
Chris Nelson
Chris Nelson, Secretary of State